

News release

16.07.14

9,684 words about being on top of the world

The final case is packed. The last part sealed. The container has gone. Canada here we come. Goodbye first half, hello half-time.

It feels like it's been too long since the last PSRX communication (three days is like a lifetime – the last three weeks have been so busy!), so we thought it might be a good time to reflect on the first half of the season.

**The good:**

Portugal, round one and complete domination. Petter was second in heat one, won heats three and four then won the semi-final and final. The perfect start to 2014. We certainly didn't suffer the home race from hell in Hell; Petter finished second in the final, electing to take a sensible, point-scoring approach rather than taking a late lunge in the last corner.

The last race in Belgium was another highlight of the first half. Again, Petter dominated, arriving at the final after a super-confident semi-final victory. And, for lap after lap, it looked like Solberg was about to become the first man to take two World RX wins of the season. Until rear suspension problems intervened and first turned to fourth at the final corner. The good news was, however: Petter went back to the top of the charts, leading the title race at half-time.

**The bad:**

Finland was a pretty miserable weekend for the team. The Kouvola meeting was the only one where Petter didn't make the podium in his heats. He finished third in the semi-final, but was not allowed to start in the final. Petter was on the grid, but he had an umbrella and not his Citroen's steering wheel in his hand.

**The ugly:**

Hmm, there's really not been much ugliness going on in the first half. Or if there has, it's been balanced out by the Monster girls! Maybe the only ugly thing was Andreas Bakkerud's big attack into the final corner in Sweden. Bakkerud made his hole and Petter took a step down on the podium from second to third.

**A word or two about each round**

Round one in one: perfect

Round two in two: not perfect

Round three in three: close to perfect

Round four in four: ready but no ride

Round five in five: podium despite scary final corner

Round six in six: leading the championship again. Oh yeah.

**Half-time analysis in numbers:**

1 – final win

3 – final podiums

7 – heats wins

10 – heats podiums  
125 – points scored  
242 – caps thrown into the crowd  
501 – posters signed  
811 – bottles of water consumed by the team  
9,684 – words written in 18 team media communications  
31,683 – seconds before the start of World RX round seven. Probably less now...